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SENATE MEMORIAL 70

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Dede Feldman

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CHARGE THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE WITH COMMISSIONING A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICAID, THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM AND THE STATE COVERAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the federal Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 significantly increases federal funding, grants and bonuses to states for enrolling children into medicaid and the state children's health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 enhances the federal medical assistance percentage rate for state expenditures on medicaid; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the second highest uninsured rate
2 in the nation; and

3 WHEREAS, almost fifty thousand New Mexico children who are
4 estimated to be eligible for medicaid and the state children's
5 health insurance program are not enrolled; and

6 WHEREAS, approximately one hundred ninety thousand
7 eligible adults are not enrolled in medicaid or the state
8 coverage insurance program; and

9 WHEREAS, enrollment in medicaid has dropped over the last
10 five years for the poorest families in the state while many
11 low-income families continue to be ineligible under the state
12 plan; and

13 WHEREAS, the state coverage insurance program for adults
14 discontinued enrollments last year, leaving thousands of people
15 on its waiting list and without health coverage; and

16 WHEREAS, more than eighteen thousand people are currently
17 on waiting lists to receive services through the medicaid
18 developmental disabilities and disabled and elderly waivers,
19 while eligible individuals wait years before receiving
20 services; and

21 WHEREAS, the recent passage of the Children's Health
22 Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 and the American
23 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 substantially increases
24 funding allotments and matching rates to New Mexico, providing
25 critical new opportunities for the state to maximize enrollment

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1 in medicaid and the state children's health insurance program,
2 as well as to extend the waiver program for state coverage
3 insurance; and

4 WHEREAS, performance bonuses will be awarded to states
5 that increase enrollment by implementing administrative
6 practices that are designed to reduce enrollment barriers and
7 streamline the renewal process, providing the state with
8 opportunities to implement new practices that would ensure that
9 eligible New Mexicans can enroll and receive benefits; and

10 WHEREAS, additional grants will be awarded to states and
11 community organizations that conduct outreach campaigns to
12 reach underserved children; and

13 WHEREAS, the state will be required under the Children's
14 Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 to report
15 data annually on the enrollment of children in medicaid and the
16 state children's health insurance program, including data on
17 eligibility criteria, enrollment and retention, and denials and
18 redeterminations of eligibility; and

19 WHEREAS, new provisions in the federal laws allow for the
20 state to expand eligibility for children, women, families and
21 adults in medicaid and the state children's health insurance
22 program; and

23 WHEREAS, the state must make critical decisions that will
24 affect eligibility policies, budgeting, administrative
25 practices and outreach and enrollment; and

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1 WHEREAS, public input would enhance the decision-making
2 process for determining how the medicaid and other state-
3 administered health insurance programs should allocate funds,
4 select coverage options, implement new administrative practices
5 and target outreach; and

6 WHEREAS, the state must act within fixed time frames over
7 the year to submit applications and amend its state plan to
8 implement options in medicaid and the state children's health
9 insurance program, and to extend the waiver program for state
10 coverage insurance; and

11 WHEREAS, the state must act immediately to ensure that it
12 receives federal allotments, grants and bonuses before such
13 funds are exhausted;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
15 OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
16 requested to charge the interim legislative health and human
17 services committee with forming a task force consisting of
18 legislators, community representatives, human services
19 department staff and legislative finance committee staff to
20 make recommendations and review the performance of the human
21 services department with respect to configuring the medicaid,
22 state coverage insurance and state children's health insurance
23 programs; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force make
25 recommendations to increase enrollment and maximize resources

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1 provided by the federal government, selecting and implementing
2 new eligibility and coverage policies and administrative
3 practices and reporting data on enrollment and retention; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be jointly led
5 by the chair of the interim legislative health and human
6 services committee and a co-chair of the legislative finance
7 committee, or their designees, and that membership include the
8 chairs of the standing house health and government affairs
9 committee, the house appropriations and finance committee, the
10 senate public affairs committee and the senate finance
11 committee, or their designees; the secretary of human services
12 or the secretary's designee; the director of the medical
13 assistance division of the human services department; the
14 director of the income support division of the human services
15 department; and representatives of at least five nonprofit
16 community or advocacy organizations that represent medicaid
17 recipients and have policy expertise on these matters as
18 selected by the chair and vice chair of the legislative health
19 and human services committee; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
21 be requested to supply the appropriate staff and information
22 requested by the task force to assist its analysis of the new
23 federal laws; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force begin meeting
25 on a regular basis from April 2009 through March 2010; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the governor, the co-chairs of the New Mexico
3 legislative council, the secretary of human services, the chair
4 and vice chair of the interim legislative health and human
5 services committee and the chair and vice chair of the
6 legislative finance committee.

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